



Case report

Grooves on the hepatic surface



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ABSTRACT

The photo case reports the incidental autopsy observations of the grooves/accessory sulci present on the surface of the liver, and highlights on its implications.

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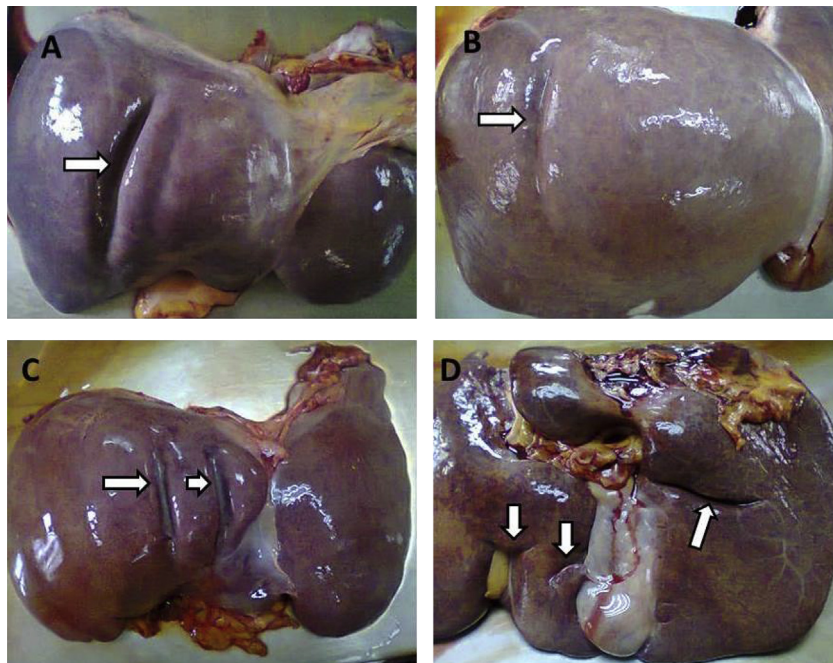


Fig. 1. A and B; Solitary vertical grooves on the anterior surface of the right lobe, C; Parallel vertical grooves on the anterior surface of the right lobe, D; Posterior surface of the liver showing a major transverse groove and a couple of minor grooves.

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Accessory sulci on the hepatic surface are anatomical variations that appear as grooves on the surface of the liver. These grooves/sulci though commoner on the right side, may involve any lobe of the liver. The grooves/sulci may be placed horizontally, obliquely, or vertically, and may be single or multiple in number. Depending on its size, the grooves can be major and minor. The major grooves are considered as an important landmark for understanding the lobar anatomy and in locating the liver lesions.¹ Some of the accessory sulci observed during routine medicolegal autopsies is shown in Fig. 1.

These surface variations of the liver may be mistaken for age related changes, healing, fibrosis or any other pathology. Anatomical knowledge of the hepatic grooves may help the radiologists and surgeons in understanding the liver segmentation, and is important in hepatectomy.² In cases of abdominal trauma, imaging studies or direct palpation of sulcus during laparotomy may give a false impression of a liver laceration.³ Awareness of these variations among the imaging specialists can possibly avoid errors in interpretation and subsequent misdiagnosis.¹ Similar sulci on the liver

surface may be frequented by autopsy surgeons and should not be doubted for any pathological condition.

Ethical approval

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Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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